Farmers has in its Third Report indicated, on the basis of field visit to the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra, *inter alia,* the following factors for suicides being committee by farmers:—

* Damage caused by unsasonal rain;
* High cost of inputs and unremunerative output prices;
* Lack of sufficient irrigation facilities and lowering of water table due to unsustainable exploitation of the aquifer;
* Spurious inputs including seeds of Bt. cotton;
* Usurious interest rate of loans charged by moneylenders;
* Low porductivity factor due to poor soil health; and
* Lack of farmer-friendly insurance scheme;

In its Second Report, the Commission recommended various measures relating to credit and Insurance, irrigation and cropping pattern, inputs, agriculture marketing and prices in order to avoid the tragedy of farmers' suicides.

The Government has identified 31 Districts in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala where the incidence of farmers' suicide has been very high and has decided to launch a special rehabilitation package to mitigate the distress of farmers. The package, *inter alia,* provides for debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, watershed development, horticulture, development, micro-irrigation, extension services and subsidiary income oportunities. The Rehabilitation Package for Maharashtra was announced on 01 July, 2006.

Modernization of agriculture system in Punjab

3052. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sum has been allocated to Punjab during the last three years for modernizing the agricultural system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of funds

allocated to the State Government of Punjab for its agricultural development under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Details of Allocation of funds made under Centrally Sponsored Schemes to State Govt, of Punjab during the Years 2003-04,2004-05 & 2005-06

(Rs.lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2003-04 Allocation	2004-05 Allocation	2005-06 Allocation
1	Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme	1500.00	1500.00	1100.00
2	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)	5.00	1.00	1.00
3	Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)*	9.00		
4	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)*	30.00		
5	Integrated Schemes of Oilseeds, pulses, oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)*		105.00	175.00
6	Improvement of Agriculture Statistics	19.00	24.00	20.00
7	Agriculture Census	10.60	30.00	20.00
8	National Horticulture Mission @	-	-	2868.82 (Release)#
9	Support of State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms @			159.00 #(Release)
10	Micro Irrigation @	-	-	566.13

@ The Scheme is being implemented *w.e.f.* 2005-06

* Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses. Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) became operation with effect from 1st April, 2004 after merging four erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP).

\# No allocation made for State of Punjab for 2005-06